

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AU, VS

SUBJ: AUSTRIAN RELATIONS WITH PRG

1. COMMUNIST DAILY VOLKSSTIMME OF APRIL 25 CARRIED FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE UNDER HEADLINE "AUTRIA MUST RECOGNIZE PRG--TWO PRG DIPLOMATS SPEAK IN VIENNA--PEACE COUNCIL CALL FOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR LIBERATED AREAS", QUOTING STATEMENT BY NGUYEN TANH, (DESCRIBED AS SECRETARY OF BUDAPEST EMBASSY OF PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM) AT VIENNA PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 24 AS FOLLOWS: "WE ARE READY TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH GOA REPRESENTATIVES AND WE WOULD WELCOME IT IF AUSTRIA COULD GIVE EXPRESSION TO ITS NEUTRALITY BY ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PRG." ARTICLE ALSO NOTED THAT AUSTRIAN PEACE COUNCIL HAD SENT LETTER TO CHANCELLOR KREISKY CALLING ON GOA TO RECOGNIZE PRG.

2. EARLIER THIS WEEK AUSTRIAN FONMIN BIELKA WHEN ASKED BY PRESS ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF AUSTRIA RECOGNIZING "REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENTS" IN INDO-CHINA, STATED THAT AUSTRIA TRADITIONALLY RECOGNIZES COUNTRIES, NOT GOVERNMENTS. BIELKA CONTINUED THAT WHEN PRG REPS APPROACHED HIM IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR DURING UN-SPONSORED RSIO CONFERENCE IN VIENNA AND SUGGESTED

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ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, HE REPORTEDLY

TOLD THEM PRG COULD NOT ANTICIPATE RECOGNITION BY
AUSTRIA UNTIL IT WAS IN SAIGON.

3. COMMENT: KNOWLEDGEABLE MFA SOURCE INDICATED TO
US TODAY (APRIL 25) THAT GOA HAS NOT SE SPECIFIC
DATE FOR TAKING UP RELATION S WITH PRG BUT IS FOLLOWING
SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM CLOSELY.BUCHANAN

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